

In the case of Sister Janice, “community service” extends well beyond the borders of our small State. Through her lens, the community is global.

Perhaps it was the work ethic and the duties of stewardship that she learned growing up on the farm or the responsibility that comes with being raised the eldest of six children, but since joining the Sisters of Mercy as a teenager, Sister Janice rose to whatever challenge she was presented and brought her trademark energy, compassion, and influence to every task.

Before most of us even heard the phrase “mainstreaming,” Sister Janice worked tirelessly to ensure that children with special needs received the education they deserved, first at the State level, and later in her work as a staff member in the U.S. Senate. Later, serving as project director of the Catholic Campaign to Ban Landmines, she was a great ally with me in the work we did in the 1990s and since then to rid the world of landmines. Her passion and commitment to that issue inspired me and many others.

Sister Janice’s titles have been many and varied: professor and college president, deputy corrections commissioner, criminal justice reformer, human rights advocate, and, of course, Catholic nun. What is common to all of her work is her heartfelt belief that we cannot and we must not lose sight of the poor and vulnerable among us.

Representing the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Janice has always done this work in a quiet but most effective manner. Her no-nonsense personality cuts straight to the core of the issue and to the pressing need. She is masterful at bringing opposing sides together and finding the common language needed to move us forward. In these times we live in, we need many more people like Sister Janice in the world.

Upon receiving an honorary degree from the University of Vermont in 2008, Sister Janice spoke about the role that faith has played in her life. She told an interviewer that she was first drawn to the Sisters of Mercy because of its emphasis on education and its work with immigrants.

“I truly believe we have purpose and that it is related to some greater force,” she said at the time. “It is almost impossible to imagine my life without a belief in a higher power, to put it in secular terms. There is so much in the universe that calls out for it.”

Marcelle and I have seen Sister Janice answer that calling many times over. For that, our State, our Nation, and our world are better. We are so very grateful.

#### NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in recognition of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, today I wish to call attention to the importance of maintain-

ing focus on efforts to bring home America’s prisoners of war, POWs, and missing in action, MIA. Let us join in honoring America’s servicemembers, including those who have yet to make it home, and recognizing the enduring service of military families who watch and wait for the return of their loved ones.

We must continue to seek answers until all American servicemembers are home. Many American families have waited decades for resolution about the fate of their loved ones who went missing while serving our Nation. I commend those who are working to bring America’s servicemembers home and who keep a spotlight on the service of those who remain missing. Idahoans, including members of the POW/MIA Awareness Rally Corp., raise awareness about the continued need to return our missing servicemembers, holding annual rallies and other events to keep a spotlight on the service of those who remain missing and the need for answers for their families. Their efforts are greatly valued in helping to ensure that the return of American servicemembers is prioritized.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency reports that more than 360 Idahoans are among those who have not yet been recovered following their service in World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war. Their service and return must be ever fixed in our national attention. My prayers are with their families and friends that they may experience the long-awaited return of their loved ones. We cannot let up in the search. As Americans, it is our duty to bring home those who have given so much for us.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO PAM TESTROET

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize and honor the president-elect of the Louisiana REALTORS, Mrs. Pam Foreman Testroet. Pam is a distinguished realtor in Louisiana whose career has been defined by her devotion to ethics and her ability to make people comfortable while making important life decisions.

The Louisiana REALTORS, LR, is a trade association tasked with helping its members in the business of real estate in Louisiana. LR represents its members on real estate issues before the State and Federal governments while also providing legal assistance and professional development opportunities. As president, Pam will ensure LR achieves its mission of “providing optimum member resources while serving as the advocate for REALTORS and consumers.”

Pam began her career in Baton Rouge working for the Louisiana State Legislature and the constitutional convention. She held various jobs in New Orleans and Houma, LA, before pursuing her dream of a career in real es-

tate in 2003. After receiving her real estate license, Pam became actively involved in REALTOR organizations, serving as a director on boards at the local, State, and national levels.

Pam’s top career priorities include client satisfaction, ethics, communication, technology, and education. As evidenced by her numerous awards, Pam has excelled at those priorities. Pam’s awards include: 2005 Rookie of the Year, 2007 REALTOR of the Year, 2008 Congeniality Award, 2010 RE/MAX Cooperative Spirit Award, Louisiana REALTORS 2013 REALTOR of the Year, 2016 Louisiana REALTORS secretary/treasurer, and, finally, 2017 president-elect of Louisiana REALTORS.

I would like to congratulate Pam on her astounding career and her ascension to the position of president of the Louisiana REALTORS. Her election as president is a testament of her work ethic and the positive impact she has had on those with which she has come in contact. I know Pam will excel in this position, and I am proud to have her in the great State of Louisiana.●

#### CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF CASCADE, IDAHO

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in honoring the city of Cascade, ID, in its 100th year since its incorporation.

One hundred years ago, Cascade got its start as a prime location along the railroad tracks that crossed Valley County, ID, and developed into the county seat. Cascade became a central place for transporting the timber harvested nearby to area sawmills and a hub for mining. Like its neighbors in other parts of Valley County, Cascade has faced booms and downturns in the logging, mining, and agriculture sectors, with resilience and ingenuity. The beauty of the local landscapes and natural resources continue to attract recreation and other outdoor activities to this picturesque community, and residents embody the industriousness and warmth at the heart of the community and its historical roots. Cascade’s chamber of commerce aptly highlights Cascade’s “scenic beauty, fresh mountain air, warm friendly people and unlimited recreational activities.” It is truly a treasure of our great State.

Congratulations to the residents of Cascade on 100 years of accomplishments in developing Cascade that is a wonderful home and destination to so many. We wish you well as you continue to work for the advancement of this great community and its residents.●

#### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN OF ESTES PARK

• Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the centennial celebration of the town of Estes Park, CO. For

more than a century, Estes Park has been the primary entrance point into one of our national treasures, Rocky Mountain National Park. Millions of tourists visit the national park each year, beginning their journey in Estes Park.

Before the formal incorporation of the town, many Native American tribes spent time in the region, including the Utes, Arapaho, Shoshone, and the Comanche. Settlers began to come to the area when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act into law in 1862, encouraging them to travel West and explore unchartered territory. In 1863, Joel and Patsy Estes traveled from Kentucky, in search of fertile land to begin their cattle ranch in Colorado, and they found it in the area that later bore their name. By 1874, many more settlers had traveled out West and made Estes Park their home.

The original Coloradans living in Estes Park were resourceful and ingenious, building schools and homes from the ground up in this rugged, mountainous terrain. The present Coloradans living in Estes Park are also resilient—surviving floods and severe damages to the town and surrounding area in 1982 and again in 2013. Following the devastation of the flooding in 2013, U.S. Highway 34, one of the main roads into Estes, was in need of extreme restoration. Through bipartisan efforts in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, the Colorado delegation was able to ensure this highway received the funding it required to keep the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park open.

I would like to congratulate the Town of Estes Park on this exciting milestone, and I look forward to the town's many more years of prosperity and success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS CERRA

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Thomas Cerra, a noble veteran, an inspiration to his community, and a beloved member of my home State of West Virginia.

Growing up in the northern panhandle of our beloved State, it is ingrained in each West Virginian that you have to work hard for what you want in life. Tom is indeed one of the hardest working men I know. Early on, he worked odd jobs during summers and after school and learned the value of a customer service mentality.

Prior to joining the military, Tom worked on the B&O Railroad, drove a truck for a meat-packing plant and worked for the State road, while also attending night school for industrial drafting.

In 1959, Tom joined the U.S. Army to serve his country and was honorably discharged in 1962. This experience only added to Tom's outstanding character, as he continued to develop his leadership skills and discipline. His service will never be forgotten.

One of my favorite stories about Tom is that, once he was discharged from the Army, he returned to the YMCA where he had trained and instructed for many years. It was the year of West Virginia's centennial celebration, and the community hosted the Mister West Virginia Centennial Weightlifting Contest. Tom won the top award in the 181-pound lifting class and the physique contest and was crowned "Mister West Virginia Centennial." Throughout all of his training, Tom never missed a day of work and still had time to get his weightlifting trophy engraved 2 weeks ahead of time. His sharp wit and sense of humor only add to his unforgettable character.

Tom worked all over the country, but found an opportunity to come home to Wheeling when he applied for a job with then-Ohio Valley Builders Exchange. After a few short years with the company, he convinced the board of directors to change the name of the company to more accurately define what they did, and so it became the Ohio Valley Construction Employers Council, Inc. Tom then led the charge to form a labor management organization in order to promote the contractors and building tradesmen to their customers. The group adjusted the name to Project BEST: Building Efficiency by Striving Together and was incorporated in 1982.

Project BEST is now comprised of hundreds of contractors and thousands of building trades craftsmen and apprentices in the Upper Ohio Valley region. This group is known for providing annual scholarships to area universities and colleges, promoting workplace safety and productivity, and provides a forum for the discussion of industry matters with all those involved with economic development endeavors.

What remained the same throughout the years was Tom's dedication to his parents, Christine and Thomas, and his brother, Jimmy, who always provided him with unwavering support throughout his career. It is my hope that he enjoys his well-deserved retirement with his loved ones—including his son, Bryan, his niece, Tina Marie, his grandchildren, Makayla, Angelina, and Wyatt, and his entire family.

Tom is the epitome of the American Dream. He worked hard his entire life and always stroved to give back to his community after he served his country. It is my great privilege to recognize his accomplishments and to extend thanks, on behalf of all West Virginians, for his unwavering service.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LUCIANO "LUCKY" VARELA

● Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to longtime New Mexico State Representative Luciano "Lucky" Varela, who passed away on September 2, 2017. Lucky served the State of New Mexico for over five decades—first as a financial expert for the State finance department and then as a respected

legislator in the New Mexico House of Representatives. We will remember Lucky as a champion for all of New Mexico, for his expertise and legislative skills, and also for his kindness, civility, and great heart.

Lucky was born to Celestino and Catalina Varela in Pecos, NM, on February 17, 1935. Growing up during and right after the Great Depression, his early jobs including hauling firewood to miners working near Pecos. He developed a strong work ethic and a love of the outdoors. Those early experiences informed his work in the State legislature, including his effort to keep New Mexico rivers and streams open to sportsmen and recreationists.

Lucky graduated from Pecos High School and joined the U.S. Army in 1957. He served 2 years in the Army and 6 years in the Army Reserve. He graduated from the College of Santa Fe with a degree in accounting. He then earned a law degree from LaSalle University.

Lucky worked as a comptroller for the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration from the early 1960s to the mid-1980s. There he got to know the State's finances inside and out—knowledge that would be key to his success in the legislature.

After retiring from State government, Lucky couldn't sit still. He ran for a seat in the New Mexico House of Representatives and represented District 48 in Santa Fe for 30 years, from 1987 to 2016.

Lucky's knowledge of State finances was legion. It is said that he knew State agency finances better than the agency heads. He served as chair of the legislative finance committee and deputy chair of the house appropriations and finance committee. Lucky understood the numbers, but just as importantly, he understood the people behind those numbers—their struggles, hopes, and dreams. He championed public education, seniors, State employees, and technology, fighting for increases funding for public schools, higher salaries for teachers, raises for State employees, and modernizing State government technology.

During the fiscal crisis of 2009, Lucky is credited with singlehandedly developing the budget that balanced the budget and saved State finances. This ensured schools stayed open, State employees were not laid off, and State police got paid.

One of his final accomplishments was a 2013 bill he cosponsored to overhaul the Public Employees Retirement Association pension fund—helping make sure State retirees are secure in their retirement.

Lucky gave selflessly to the people of Santa Fe, the entire State of New Mexico, and our Nation, but he was even more devoted to family. Lucky is survived by his three children—Jeff, James, and Bernadette—and nine grandchildren. New Mexico is a better place thanks to Lucky's over 50 years of service. We will miss him dearly.●